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Peking Man Bjt 450
By C. R. RAGAN
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NEW YORK AP - A heart specialist's assistant here who spent four years in Japanese prisoner-of-war camps said Wednesday that in China for a few days in 1941 he had possession of the long-lost and priceless Peking Man.

He said he was captured on Pearl Harbor Day and he thinks his captors "probably threw the bones away."

They may still be in the area of what was Camp Holcomb, near the coastal city of Chinwangtao in Hopeh Province, said Herman Davis. Davis, 55, is a former Marine Corps pharmacist mate.

Davis said his commanding officer and current boss, Dr. William T. Foley, had been entrusted by the Chinese with taking the remains of the Peking Man-a generic term for the collection of 40 skulls, 150 teeth and numerous bones that date man back 450,000 to 2 million years-to the United States for safekeeping during the war.

Davis contacted a Chicago investment banker, Christopher G. Janus, who has offered a $5,000 reward for information leading to the Peking Man. Janus returned recently from Communist China, where he was told how "terribly important the Peking Man is to the Chinese at this time."

Janus hopes to find the Peking Man and then establish a private student exchange program with the Chinese government.

Others who have contacted Janus since he announced his reward offer a week ago disagree with Davis, some saying they have parts of the Peking Man and revealing their claims in devious, cloak-and-dagger meetings at such spots as the Empire State Building observation deck and in dark corners in the plush Harvard Club.

The assortment of bones, unearthed in China between 1927 and 1929, has not been seen publicly since Davis' capture.

Davis suggested a search of the area around Camp Holcomb. "The Japanese were hungry for any kind of souvenir-Mickey Mouse watch or whatever. But when they came across the bones, they probably threw them out, thinking they were bones of our American ancestors. They wouldn't mean anything to them," said Davis, who now lives in Colonia, N.J., with his wife and three children.

Two other persons who have contacted Janus say they have part of the bone collection.

One woman called and told Janus "If there really is a reward, I'll be glad to meet with you." She set the date for the Empire State Building.

During the rendezvous, the banker reported, she told him the last thing her late husband told her was "to be careful how I disposed of it, but don't sell it for less than half a million dollars, because of the number of people interested."

Janus said she showed him a photograph of a foot locker with oriental characters which, he said, matched Davis' description of what he left behind in Chin-wang-tao.

The other "B-movie-type" affair involved a Chinese man who said he knew a man who had one of the foot lockers and secretly met Janus in the Harvard Club.

"Have you the money to pay for the box?" was the one question the man repeatedly asked, Janus related. He said the man had given his name, but pledged Janus to confidentiality. The woman had not, he said, but both promised to recontact him.

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